

Thousands march in Mexico city of Oaxaca

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OAXACA, Mexico --

Thousands of educators and leftist activists marched through Mexico's southern city of Oaxaca on Thursday to mark the first anniversary of a clash between police and striking teachers that set off months of political unrest.

Carrying photos of their jailed leaders and chanting "June 14 is not forgotten, nor forgiven!" the demonstrators marched to the central square of this colonial city - once the nerve center of their movement - and held a peaceful meeting.

On June 14, 2006, Oaxaca Gov. Ulises Ruiz sent police to dislodge striking teachers from the square. Enraged, the strikers retook the square and chased police out of most of the city.

They also set up roadblocks, and forced the cancellation of the state's popular Guelagueta folk festival, scaring away much of the tourism on which the city depends. Federal police retook the city in late October, and some protest leaders were arrested on charges including property damage for the buildings and vehicles burned during the five months of unrest.

Protesters continue to demand the ouster of Ruiz, who they say used excessive force against protesters last year.